

NEWS

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Pennsauken Man Pleads Guilty to String of Bank Robberies in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Pennsauken man pleaded guilty today to committing a string of seven bank robberies in southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

Keith Cummings, 34, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler to a seven-count criminal Information which charges bank robbery. Judge Kugler continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for July 8.

Cummings has been in custody since his arrest by Special Agents of the FBI and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office on Sept. 8, 2008.

At his plea hearing, Cummings admitted that between July 31, 2008 and Sept. 5, 2008, he brandished a handgun, which turned out to be a pellet gun, to rob the following seven banks:

- July 31, 2008, Jim Thorpe National Bank, Jim Thorpe, Pa., of approximately \$2,316;
- Aug. 6, 2008, Jim Thorpe National Bank, Jim Thorpe, Pa., of approximately \$3,527;
- Aug. 11, 2008, Citadel Bank, Chadds Ford, Pa., of approximately \$7,100;
- Aug. 19, 2008, DNB Bank, Kennett Square, Pa., of approximately \$4,221;
- Aug. 23, 2008, Old Second Bank, Campton Hills, Ill., of approximately \$5,910;
- Sept. 2, 2008, Sun National Bank, Somerdale, N.J., of approximately \$4,900;
- Sept. 5, 2008, Bank of America, Turnersville, N.J., of approximately \$11,722.

Each count of bank robbery carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Kugler will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarczyk in Philadelphia, and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Skahill of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lisa Evans Lewis, Esquire Assistant Federal Public Defender